



What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

February 2010

WONDERLAND

January 15 – February 14 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Composer Frank Wildhorn (*Jekyll and Hyde*) returns to the Alley with **Wonderland**, a delightful new musical that updates Alice's adventures through an amazing pop score. Alley audiences will be among the first to see this new production filled with extraordinary songs, fantastic characters, and lots of heart. *Recommended for general audiences.*

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$85

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

TOSCA

January 22 – February 7 (Times vary)

Houston Grand Opera

Renowned soprano Patricia Racette makes her role debut as the passionate Floria Tosca in Puccini's timeless drama. Tenor Alexey Dolgov is the painter Mario Cavaradossi, whom Tosca adores and Raymond Aceto sings the menacing Baron Scarpia who will stop at nothing to destroy the object of Tosca's affections. Created especially for Houston Grand Opera, this new production by John Caird features classic sets and costumes designed by Bunny Christie in the style of nineteenth-century Rome.

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Performance Timing: 2 hours, 40 minutes including 2 intermissions

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$23 - \$200

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

January 29 – February 13 (Times vary)

Houston Grand Opera

In this operatic thriller two children are pulled toward the world of the dead by the ghosts of their prior governess Miss Jessel and her lover Peter Quint. Internationally acclaimed soprano Amanda Roocroft plays the governess whose obsessive efforts to protect the children may prove more of a threat than the spirits themselves. Powerhouse mezzo-soprano Judith Forst is housekeeper Mrs. Grose, the governess's only ally. Haunting Victorian sets depict the world of the Henry James novel on which the opera is based. Directed by Neil Armfield, this is the third opera in HGO's ongoing Benjamin Britten series.

Sung in English with English Supertitles

Performance Timing: 2 hours, 10 minutes including 1 intermission

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$23 - \$200

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

MRS. MANNERLY

January 29 – February 28 (Times vary)

Alley Theatre

Inspired by a childhood memory of etiquette class, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher conjures up the world of a seven-year-old studying manners from the title character. Mrs. Mannerly is a demanding teacher, and no student in her 36 years of etiquette classes has achieved a perfect score. But when he discovers her secret past, Young Jeffrey is determined to be the first. This unique comic tale reveals truths about the face we present and real selves that lie inside. *Recommended for general audiences.*

Neuhaus Stage

Tickets: \$40 - \$55

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

A LITTLE DAY MUSIC

February 3 (Noon)

Da Camera of Houston

A Little Day Music concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season.

Wortham Center's Grand Foyer

Tickets: Free

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

CONCERT OF ARIAS

February 4 (7:30 pm)

Houston Grand Opera

In the heart of winter, on February 4, 2010, the Concert of Arias – 22nd Annual Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers takes the Cullen Theater stage at the Wortham Theater Center. Watch and be entertained as some of the best emerging operatic talent compete head to head for top honors at this prestigious competition – and don't forget to cast your vote for the coveted Audience Choice Award!

Following the competition, the evening reaches its pinnacle with the Celebration Dinner in the Grand Foyer. Don't Miss this special opportunity to see and "discover" emerging stars of tomorrow!

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$35 - \$75

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

RED CARPET OSCAR PARTY

February 5-7 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

February means the Academy Awards®! Remember your favorite Oscar-winning blockbusters with music from *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Exodus*, *Ben Hur* and *Titanic* – as well as 2010 Oscar® hopefuls.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$122

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

BEN ALLISON AND MAN SIZE SAFE

February 6 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

Ben Allison is a "visionary composer, adventurous improviser, and strong organizational force on the New York City jazz scene, [and] has emerged as a rising star over the past decade" (*JazzTimes*). Cited in the "Best Bassist" category of the 2007, 2006 and 2005 Down Beat Readers' Poll. Allison's Man Size Safe quintet mixes joyous exuberance and good-humored irreverence with textured grooves and an occasional political jab.

"Ben Allison's music has all the earmarks of jazz in motion to a higher evolutionary plateau." -- *Billboard*

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$30 - \$50

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

MISS SAIGON

February 9-21 (Times vary)

Theatre Under the Stars

Once again the LES MIZ pop composers Boubilil and Schonberg, inspired by another classic love story in wartime, have woven songs pulsing with memorable melodies and resonant lyrics. With its exotic setting, but familiar conflict of returning draftees, *MISS SAIGON* makes the story of *MADAME BUTTERFLY* new again. It was clear after the 2001 sold-out TUTS debut — subscribers have since clamored for this soaring score and indelible characters to return — and what better sequel to the landmark *LES MISÉRABLES*? Journey with TUTS halfway across the world for one of the most timeless and moving stories ever told everything to make you attest "I Still Believe."

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$24 - \$107.50

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

WAIT, WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!

February 11-12 (7:30 pm each day)

NPR

The oddly informative news quiz is coming to Houston! *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!* is NPR's weekly hour-long quiz program. Each week on the radio you can test your knowledge against some of the best and brightest in the news and entertainment world while figuring out what's real news and what's made up.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: TBD

JIM GAFFIGAN

February 12 (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$39.75 - \$49.75

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

STOMP

February 12-14 (Times vary)

Society for the Performing Arts

STOMP, the international sensation, is making its triumphant return to Houston. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show now updated and restructured and the addition of two new full-scale routines, utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. "After creating new routines for STOMP OUT LOUD in Vegas, [co-creator] Luke Cresswell and I decided it was time to rework elements of our main production, STOMP," said co-creator Steve McNicholas. "STOMP has evolved a great deal ever since its first incarnation at the Edinburgh Festival. Every reworking has involved losing some pieces and gaining new ones, but has always stayed true to the original premise of the show: to create rhythmic music with instantly recognizable objects, and do it with an eccentric sense of character and humor."

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$62

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND

February 12 (8:00 pm)

Da Camera of Houston

Three gems of the British chamber music repertoire are featured in this English tribute: Vaughan Williams's atmospheric settings of A.E. Housman poems, Elgar's majestic Piano Quintet and Britten's expressive Phantasy Quartet. Tenor Andrew Kennedy, known for his dramatic performances in song and opera, and celebrated rising-star Orion Weiss make their Da Camera debuts.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$25 - \$45

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

ROMEO & JULIET

February 13 (8:00 pm)

Mercury Baroque & Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

This Valentine's, bring your date and join Mercury Baroque and Dominic Walsh Dance Theater as we remount our popular opera-ballet: *Romeo and Juliet*. Shakespeare's epic love story will be staged by Dominic Walsh and scored to the music of Vivaldi as arranged by Mercury's Artistic Director Antoine Plante. With breathtaking sets, stunning dancing, and passionate music, *Romeo and Juliet* is the perfect outing on Valentine's weekend.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$47

(713) 533-0080 / mercurybaroque.org

BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL SYMPHONY

February 19-21 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Graf rearranged his schedule to join legendary pianist Radu Lupu so they can together illuminate Mozart's emotionally charged - even operatic- masterpiece.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$116

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

CAMELOT

February 19-28 (Times vary)

Masquerade Theatre

A legendary production for a Legendary season, and the crown jewel in the collaborative efforts of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe (Brigadoon, My Fair Lady) performed as only Masquerade can! The legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and of the tragic love between he, his queen Guenevere, and the champion Sir Lancelot is built on the inherent nobility of the King and his struggle to uphold a perfect ideal of chivalry and goodness in an all-too-human world... and all too soon, the choices he must make between being a husband, being a friend, and being a king. Allow yourself to be drawn into the breathtaking drama and the beauty of Camelot, a perfect place that cannot exist, with beloved and classic songs like "If Ever I Would Leave You", "In The Lusty Month Of May", "Fie On Goodness" and "I Wonder What The King Is Doing Tonight". The Masquerade Theatre is happy to offer you and your family seats at the Round Table!

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$36.25 - \$66.25

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org or masqueradetheatre.com

BAND OF THE IRISH GUARD

February 23 (7:30 pm)

Society for the Performing Arts

The Irish Guards were formed on April 1, 1900 on the expressed wish of HM Queen Victoria to commemorate the bravery of the many Irish Regiments who had fought in the South African campaigns. The Regimental Band was formed at about the same time and consisted initially of 35 musicians and a Warrant Officer, Mr C H Hassell, who was the Bandmaster. The Band quickly gained a reputation for excellence and in 1905 was invited to make what turned out to be the first of many tours of Canada. The people of Toronto were so impressed with the band's performance that they presented the Band with a large and very ornate Silver Cup that remains a cherished possession of the Band today.

With a current establishment of 49 musicians, the band has a variety of professional ensembles that include a Concert Band, Marching Band, Salon Orchestra, Dance Band, Fanfare Trumpeters and several other smaller ensembles. The band's main duty is to play, in turn with the other 4 Foot Guards Bands, for the Mounting of The Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace and for state ceremonial occasions and public duties such as Investitures, State Visits, Royal Weddings, Guards of Honour, Royal Garden Parties and, of course, The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour).

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$57

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION

February 23 – March 7 (Times vary)

Broadway Across America

From the creators of the groundbreaking BROADWAY HIT, Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy comes an all new journey of nighttime dreamers whose imaginations are ignited within a landscape of towering buildings and infinite possibilities. Created and Directed by Neil Goldberg, Cirque Dreams Illumination has been hailed as Dazzling!...a reason to stand up and cheer by the New York Daily News. Audiences of all ages will marvel and experience a journey of city dwellers who reinvent everyday objects, balance beyond belief, delicately dangle from wires, leap tall buildings and redefine the risks of flight in an array of astounding occurrences that transform the ordinary into extraordinary.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$20 - \$130

(800) 745-3000 / broadwayacrossamerica.com

LA BAYADÈRE ("THE TEMPLE DANCER")

February 25 – March 7 (Times vary)

Houston Ballet

The high point of Houston Ballet's fortieth anniversary season will be a spectacular new production of one of the great classical works of the nineteenth century repertoire, featuring choreography by Stanton Welch and lavish scenery and costumes by the celebrated English designer Peter Farmer. Set in the Royal India of the past, La Bayadère is a story of eternal love, mystery, fate, vengeance, and justice. The ballet relates the drama of a temple dancer (bayadère), Nikiya, who is loved by Solor, a noble warrior. She is also loved by the High Brahmin, but does not love him in return, as she does Solor.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$17 - \$160

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS

February 25 (7:30 pm)

Houston Symphony

The Tony® Award-winning Broadway musical Jersey Boys portrayed the lives of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons to international acclaim. Now hear them live with the Houston Symphony singing "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man" and "Oh, What a Night."

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$45 - \$175

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

MICHAEL CAVANAUGH SINGS BILLY JOEL AND MORE

February 26-28 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

Michael Cavanaugh played Billy Joel in the hit Broadway musical Movin' Out. Now hear him perform Billy Joel hits including "Uptown Girl," "Piano Man" and "Just the Way You Are." Also hear the music of Jerry Lee Lewis, Elton John and The Who.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$122

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

February 27 (10:00 am & 11:30 am)

Houston Symphony

Don't judge a book by its cover—true beauty lies beneath! Two stories -Beauty and the Beast and Tubby the Tuba- will bring this idea to life on stage through music. Listen to selections from Disney's Oscar®-winning Beauty and the Beast. Also hear Principal Tuba Dave Kirk help tell the irresistible story of Tubby the Tuba.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$12 - \$19

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

THE EDGE: HIP HOP FROM ACROSS HOUSTON

February 27 (8:00 pm)

Dance Houston

Dance Houston presents a high energy showcase of the latest dance moves and styles. Over 150 local dancers will take the stage at the Wortham. The Edge highlights the most progressive and organically trained dancers in Houston. It's the one chance you have all year to spend an evening enjoying live performances of the dance that defines today's youth culture.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$15 - \$40

(713) 526-1049 / dancehouston.org

